Perspective of Imaging with the VLTI

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The interferometric array of the Very Large Telescope (VLT) Observatory located at Cerro Paranal in Northern Chile saw first fringes with the test camera VINCI in March 2001. In the meantime, the first generation scientific instruments are near completion: observation time with MIDI (MID-Infrared recombination) has been offered to the community in September 2003, and AMBER (near infrared instrument) is presently under commissioning. The infrastructure of the interferometric array of the VLT offers the possibility to combine four 8-m Unit Telescopes (UT) with a maximum baseline of 130 m, and to combine a maximum of eight 1.8-m Auxiliary Telescopes (AT) relocatable on 30 stations with a maximum baseline of 200 m, thus providing excellent UV-coverage. One of the final goals of the VLTI is to produce images with a few milliarcseconds resolution. We will report the status of the VLTI and we will present some of the principles under study for the next generation instruments aiming at imaging.